GOVERNMENTOFTELANGANA
ABSTRACT

EFS&T Department –Identification of the deemed forest in Government and private lands – Recommendations of the Expert Committee furnished - Orders – Issued.

ENVIRONMENT, FOREST, SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY (FOR.I) DEPARMENT

G.O.Ms.No. 8

Dated: 04-04-2026

Read the following:-

1) Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rules, 2023.
2) Hon'ble Supreme Court of India dated.12-12-1996 in WPNo.202/95 and interim orders dated.19.02.2024 and 04.03.2025 passed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court in WP (C) No 1164/2023.
3) F.No.11-98/2019-FC, GoI, MoEF& CC (Forest Conservation Division), Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, New Delhi,Dt:14.11.2019.
4) G.O.Rt.No.64, EFS&T For.I(1) Dept., dt:27.06.2025.
5) From the PCCF(HoFF), Telangana, Hyderabad, Rc.No.PCCF-FC3/FC24/1/2024, dt:13.11.2025.

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O R D E R:-

In the reference 4th read above, Government had reconstituted the Expert Committee, in order to identify the forest like area (commonly referred to as 'Deemed Forest') in terms of Rule 16(1) of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rules 2023 and the orders of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in the reference 2nd read above.

2. In the reference 3rd read above, the Government of India has informed that, the criteria for 'deemed forests' has to be framed by the States and the criteria so finalized by a State, need not be subject to approval of MoEF&CC, Government of India.

3. In the reference 5th read above, the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (HoFF), Telangana, Hyderabad has furnished the recommendations of the Expert Committee and requested the Government for taking necessary action.

4. After careful consideration of the matter, the Government has decided to accept the recommendations of the Expert Committee. Accordingly, the criteria for identification of 'deemed forest', District Level Committee and Methodology are formulated here under:

(a) Criteria for 'Deemed Forest':

The following Criteria and conditions shall be applied for identification of the 'deemed forest' in Government and private lands.

For inclusion:

(ALL criteria should be satisfied for inclusion)

1. Canopy Density : 0.4 or above
2. Tree species : 70% or above forestry species of natural origin
3. No of trees per Hectare: Minimum 240
4. Extent of Block/area: Minimum of 25 Hectares

(Explanation: If in any block, part of the block is not satisfying criteria 1, 2 and 3 above, the same shall be eliminated and the balance will be considered to test this criterion).

(To be considered a tree, the diameter of the trunk should be 10 cm DBH or more)

[P.T.O]

For exclusion:

(ANY criteria, if applicable will lead to exclusion)

1. Notified forest area.
2. Land recorded as forest in any Govt., Records (this will form part of separate list)
3. Areas identified for Compensatory Afforestation
4. All plantations, Agro-forestry, Horticulture plantations in Private/Government lands.
5. Govt., lands allotted to any organization (State, Central, PSU etc.,) for specific purpose.
6. Land parcels where the tree growth is due to pendency of any litigation - empirical evidence to be produced.

(b) District Level Committee:

A district Level Committee with the following composition is constituted for each district for identification of 'deemed forest' in Government and Private lands as per the Criteria and Methodology:

Sl.No.	Name of the Officer	Designation
1	District Collector	Chairperson
2	Additional Collector (Revenue)	Member
3	District Forest Officer	Member Convenor
4	Assistant Director/Inspector of Survey (Survey and Land Records)	Member

(c) Methodology:

The following Methodology shall be followed to identify 'deemed forest' and prepare a consolidated list of such land parcels.

(I) Action to be taken by the District Level Committee:

i. Survey and demarcation of the areas, which are qualified for considering as deemed forest. The Survey map includes, revenue village & survey number details along with area extent in hectares.
ii. Issuance of notices by the District Level Committee and disposing of them after giving 15 days time to reply.
iii. Finalization & approval by the District level committee under the signatures of the members and Chairperson on the list of the areas qualified as deemed forest and submission of the same to the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (PCCF), followed by submission of the relevant KML files.

(II) Consolidation of the area/land parcels at state level after receipt of the reports from all the Districts by O/o.PCCF (HoFF).

(III) Submission of consolidated list to the Government by Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (HoFF) for further approval.

5. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (HoFF), Telangana, Hyderabad shall take necessary further action, accordingly.

(BY ORDER AND IN THE NAME OF THE GOVERNOR OF TELANGANA)

AHMAD NADEEM
PRINCIPAL SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

To
The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests(HoFF),
Telangana, Hyderabad.

(Contd…)

All the District Collectors, in the State of Telangana,
All the concerned Members through PCCF(HoFF), Hyderabad.

Copyto:

All the Departments in the Telangana Secretariat.
The Chief Commissioner of Land Administration, Hyderabad.
The Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change,
Government of India, Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,
Jor Bagh Road, Ali Ganj, New Delhi-110003.
The Regional Office(SEZ),Government of India.
Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate Change,
1st and 2nd Floor, Handloom Export Promotion Council,
Cathedral Garden Road,Nungambakkam, Chennai -34.
The Inspector General of Forests(C),Sub-office,
Government of India, MoEF&CC, Hyderabad, Regional
Office, Chennai, 6th Floor, Aranya bhavan, Hyderabad.
The Principal Secretary to Hon'ble CM (VS).
OSD to Hon'ble CM (VS).
PS to Hon'ble Minster(E&F).
OSD to Chief Secretary to Government.
PS to Principal Secretary to Govt.,
SC/SF.

//FORWARDED :: BY ORDER//

SECTION OFFICER